

ALASKA TRIBAL-STATE FORUM ON SAFETY AND JUSTICE

***Interior Region
May 15-16, 2008
Fairbanks, Alaska***

REPORT



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Sponsored by the Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

In partnership with the Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Department of Law, Alaska Court System, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and the Alaska Native Justice Center.

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Tribal-State Forum on Safety and Justice Agenda

Fairbanks Westmark

Fairbanks, Alaska

May 15-16, 2008

THURSDAY

8:00-8:30 *Registration*

8:30-9:00 *Welcome, Announcements and Introductions*

9:00-9:45 **Domestic Violence Basics**

Annie Krenzer, Youth Outreach Educator, Interior Alaska Center for Non- Violence and
Janelle Chapin, Program Assistant Tanana Chiefs Conference STOP Violence
Break

9:50 -10:35 **Alaska Native Women - Healing Historical Trauma**

Tami Jerue, Administrator, Alaska Native Women's Coalition
Break

10:45-11:35 **Domestic Violence - The Role of Law Enforcement and Mandatory Arrest**

Katie TePas, Program Coordinator, Alaska State Troopers
Break

11:40 -12:30 **Civil Legal Remedies - Protective Orders, Divorce and Child Custody**

Jennifer King, Attorney and Andrea Browning, Coordinator, Alaska Network on
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Legal Advocacy Project

12:30-1:30 *Lunch*

1:30-2:20 **State Domestic Violence Laws and Prosecutorial Decision-Making**

Michael Gray, District Attorney, Fairbanks Office of the District Attorney
Break

2:25-3:05 **Victims' Rights and Victim/Witness Paralegals**

Joleen Cooper and Jennifer McCormick, Victim/Witness Paralegals,
Fairbanks Office of the District Attorney
Break

3:15-4:05 **The Role of the Courts in Protection Orders and Sentencing**

The Honorable Niesje Steinkruger, Superior Court (Retired), Alaska Court System

4:05 – 4:35 **Batterers' Accountability and Program Services**

Lisa Hay, Executive Director, LEAP Alternatives to Violence Programs
Break

4:40-5:00 **Legal System Panel - Question and Answers**

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FRIDAY

8:15-8:30 *Registration*

8:30-9:20 **Practical Skills For Victim Advocacy and Safety Planning**
Patti Bland, Director of Training, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and Christine King, Project Coordinator Center for Human Development, UAA
Break

9:25-10:15 **Advocacy and Safety Planning (continued)**
Break

10:25- 11:25 **Advocacy for Survivors with Substance Use Issues**
Patti Bland, Director of Training, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Break

11:30 – 12:20 **Legal Advocacy and Mandated Reporting**
Jennifer King, Attorney and Andrea Browning, Coordinator, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Legal Advocacy Project

12:20-1:20 *Lunch*

1:20-2:05 **Alaska Native Justice and Domestic Violence**
Mary Elam, Advocacy Coordinator, Alaska Native Justice Center and Kevin Illingworth, JD, Professor, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Break

2:10-3:00 **Tribal Jurisdictions and Tribal Courts**
Mary Elam, Advocacy Coordinator, Alaska Native Justice Center and Kevin Illingworth, JD, Professor, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Break

3:10-4:00 **Challenges and Solutions Work Session**

4:00- 4:20 **Work Session Reports**

4:20 -4:30 **Evaluations**

4:30-5:00 **Closing Ceremony**

Participants



Interior Region Participants

Eighty (80) participants attended the two-day training held at the Fairbanks Westmark Hotel. Thirty-eight (38) participants live in Fairbanks. Forty (40) trainees traveled to Fairbanks from nineteen (19) smaller Interior communities and villages. The Alaska Court System DV Coordinator and an Alaska Native Justice Center victim-advocate traveled from Anchorage to attend the training.

Allakaket (2)	Kaltag (2)
Anchorage (2)	Koyukuk (1)
Beaver (3)	McGrath (3)
Delta Junction (1)	Nenana (2)
Eagle (2)	North Pole (1)
Fairbanks (38)	Nulato (5)
Fort Yukon (2)	Ruby (6)
Galena (1)	Tanana (1)
Healy (1)	Tok (3)
Hughes (1)	Venetie (1)
Huslia (2)	

Participants included:

Batterer intervention program staff (2)

Court personnel (5)

superior court judge, magistrates (3) and DV coordinator,

Educators (3)

Headstart teacher, student assistant UAF Women's Center, UAF behavioral health student

Government agency staff (4)

OCS – children's services specialists

Health professionals (8)

RN detox nurse, public health nurse, community health aides CHA (3), community health practitioners CHP (2), nurses aide,

Law enforcement officers (5)

State trooper, detective, UAF , Police officer, VPSOs (2)

Mental health professionals (3)

behavioral health business manager, clinicians (2)

Social service organization staff (2)

women's rescue shelter manager, cook,

Tribal government/Tribal government agency staff (26)

Alaska Native Health Board member, village-based ICWA, Youth and TFYS (5) workers, tribal administrators (2), tribal judges (2), council members (3), human services director, tribal operations director, Fairbanks Native Association-care coordinator, case managers (2), cook, counselor, lead counselor and youth coordinator, Tanana Chiefs Conference-STOP program assistant, child protection coordinator

Victim advocates (16)

ANWC administrator, advocate and safe home manager, IAC victim advocates (2), legal advocate, safety advocate, case managers (2), house coordinator, community services director, executive director, program coordinator, rural outreach educator and youth educator, ANJC victim advocate

Other (specify) (6)

elder, tribal members (5)

Presentations



Annie Krenzer, Youth Outreach Educator at IAC presents domestic violence basics (left). Tami Jerue, Alaska Native Women's Coalition Administrator discusses how Alaska Natives can heal from historical trauma (right).



Jennifer King, ANDVSA Pro-Bono Attorney on protective orders, divorce and child custody (left). Katie TePas, AST Program Coordinator on mandatory arrest policies and law enforcement response (right).



Patti Bland, ANDVSA Director of Training (center) and Christine King, UAA Center for Human Development Project Coordinator(right) help participants build practical skills for survivor advocacy and safety planning.



Fairbanks District Attorney Michael Gray (left) and Department of Law Victim –Witness Paralegals Joleen Cooper and Jennifer McCormick (right) explain prosecutorial decision-making and victim's rights' in domestic violence cases.



Mary Elam, Alaska Native Justice Center Advocacy Coordinator and Kevin Illingworth UAF Professor discuss tribal jurisdiction and the development of tribal courts (left) and retired Superior Court Judge Niesje Steinkruger explains the role of the state court in domestic violence (right).



Lisa Hay, Executive Director of LEAP Alternatives to Violence Programs (left) addresses batterers' accountability programs. Brenda Stanfill, Executive Director of Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living (right) addresses services available to domestic violence survivors throughout the region.

Faculty and Staff

Sixteen (16) faculty and staff participated in or presented at the forum.

Patricia Bland, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Director of Training

Andrea Browning, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Legal Advocacy Project Coordinator

Joleen Cooper, Fairbanks District Attorney's Office, Victim-Witness Paralegal

Mary Elam, Alaska Native Justice Center, Advocate Coordinator

Sherrie Goll, Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Project Coordinator

Michael Gray, Alaska Department of Law, Fairbanks District Attorney

Jo Griggs, Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Business Manager

Lisa Hay, LEAP Alternative to Violence, Executive Director

Kevin Illingworth, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Assistant Professor of Tribal Management

Tamra Jerue, Alaska Native Women's Coalition, Administrator

Christine King, University of Alaska, Center for Human Development, Project Coordinator

Annie Krenzer, Interior Alaska center for Non-Violent Living (IAC), Youth Outreach Educator

Jennifer McCormick, Fairbanks District Attorney's Office, Victim-Witness Paralegal

Honorable Niesje Steinkruger, Alaska Court System, Superior Court Judge (Retired)

Jennifer King Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Pro-Bono Attorney

Katie TePas, Alaska State Troopers, Program Coordinator

Training Content Areas

Domestic Violence and Victim Advocacy

Advocate response
Confidentiality and legal advocacy
Domestic violence overview, dynamics, services
Safety planning for victims/survivors
Sexual assault overview
Stalking overview

Justice System

Civil court procedures
Criminal court procedures
Decreasing dual arrests/ID of primary aggressor
Domestic violence statutes and codes
Law enforcement response
Judicial Response
Pro-arrest policies
Prosecution response
Protection orders (including full faith and credit)
Sexual assault statutes and codes
Stalking statutes and codes
Tribal jurisdiction and PL 280
Victims' Rights

Underserved Populations

Issues specific to victims/survivors who:

- live in rural areas
- are Alaska Natives
- have substance abuse or mental health problems
- are elderly or have a disability

Challenges and Solutions



Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living staff facilitate a work session to identify local challenges and solutions to addressing domestic violence in rural communities.



Amy Topkok (left) and the Pavva Inupiaq Dancers of Fairbanks perform a closing ceremony for the forum.

Interior Region Challenges and Solutions

Challenge: Increase community and victim awareness

Solutions:

- Stop apathy/denial
- Parents attend school education programs
- More male involvement
- More Native role models
- Village-level community education UAA (Kevin) TCC, FNA, ANDVSA
- Promote a single help number with a live person 24 hours a day
- PSAs with information and phone numbers on public radio
- Signs on buses, cabs - in the village hang at post office, schools, churches, city clinic

Challenge: Lack of law enforcement, lack of properly trained village first responders

Solutions:

- First responders team
- Find reliable employees
- Crisis Intervention training

Challenge: No safe place, no transportation funding

Solutions:

- Contact #IAC
- Village-based batterers program similar to LEAP
- Outreach and assistance through tele-psychiatry
- Encourage homeland safety - escape bags
- Identify safe houses in the villages – look into tribal protective order to protect the safe house
- More support for non-residents
- Public education on options available to victim/survivors

Challenge: Community involvement

Solution:

- Create a tribal court
- Response team
- School curriculum

Challenge: Substance abuse and need to leave village for treatment

Solutions:

- Stronger tribal involvement
- Community patrols
- Early education in preschool and school
- Encourage kids and adults to talk without fear of punishment
- Educate on consequences of addictions – health, social economic, community-wise-STDS FAS HIV DV SA
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Hold spirit camps throughout the year instead of once yearly

Challenge: Access to services for rural villages.

Solutions:

- Use of video teleconferences with trained local officials in hub community
- Invite available resources to visit your village
- Use local resources

Challenge: Dealing with families

Solutions: Protection of workers and their families
 Coordinating with local resources, police, VPSO etc
 Educate the victim and the victim's family on changing family patterns,
 breaking habits

Challenge: Confidentiality – family members are on councils, at meetings, is your boss

Solutions: Sign confidentiality agreements
 Limit access to the information, fax and mail

Challenge: Lack of resources

Solution: join the tribes and city and local and regional corps to get matching funds
 for grants

Challenge: Losing young families to cities due to lack of jobs

Solution: Cultural values, bring back the value of bush living – subsistence life
 style, respect for elders
 Economic development of area. Training for area mining jobs.

Challenge: Cases being dismissed

Solution: Challenge the District Attorney's office to meet with law enforcement at
 least once a month to discuss cases and look for a pattern of problems with
 particular suspects/potential defendants.